

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 207554
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 /163 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:REWOODS:CW
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST
EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH

-----109101 161939Z /45

R 161741Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207554

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, CCD, PROG

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CANDIDACY FOR CD MEMBERSHIP

1. BELGIAN CHARGE DE LA BARRE CALLED ON EUR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST AUGUST 14 TO SOLICIT US SUPPORT FOR
BELGIAN CANDIDACY FOR THE NEW DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE (CD).
HE CHARACTERIZED CALL AS BELGIUM'S FORMAL DEMARCHE ON
SUBJECT, FOLLOWING EARLIER CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON,
GENEVA AND BRUSSELS.

2. DE LA BARRE SAID WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD INTEREST IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 207554

WORKING TOGETHER TO OBTAIN GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF
NEW SEATS IN THE CD, AND TO ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF
THESE SEATS WENT TO A NATO COUNTRY. HE PROPOSED THAT
CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE BETWEEN CAPITALS, IN NATO, AND
IN GENEVA, ADDING THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT OBJECT TO
GENEVA AS LONG AS TALKS WERE NOT HELD IN A CCD CONTEXT.
IT WOULD BE EASIER IN GENEVA, RATHER THAN IN NEW YORK,

TO TREAT THE QUESTION IN TERMS OF THREE GROUPS: EAST, WEST, AND NON-ALIGNED. IN NEW YORK, ONE WOULD FACE PRESSURE FOR FIVE GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS. BELGIUM MUCH PREFERRED GENEVA. HE SAID BELGIUM WAS MAKING DEMARCHES TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR ITS CANDIDACY IN VARIOUS CAPITALS, INCLUDING MOSCOW.

3. ON TIMING, DE LA BARRE SAID THE PRESSURE WAS PROBABLY OFF TO REACH DECISIONS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE 33RD UNGA. A CONSENSUS SEEMED TO EXIST THAT MOISSOV WOULD REMAIN, OR BE CONSIDERED REMAINING PRESIDENT OF THE 32ND UNGA UNTIL JANUARY AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CD. THIS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL TIME.

4. WITH REGARD TO OTHER NATO CANDIDATES, DE LA BARRE SAID NORWAY, DENMARK, AND TURKEY FELT THAT CENTRAL EUROPE WAS ALREADY WELL REPRESENTED IN THE CCD IN COMPARISON TO THE FLANKS OF NATO. BELGIUM BELIEVED THE ONLY WAY TO ENABLE ALL MEMBERS OF WESTERN GROUP TO BE REPRESENTED WAS BY HAVING MEMBERSHIP IN NEW CD LINKED WITH "ROTATION." BELGIUM WAS FLEXIBLE, HOWEVER, AND DID NOT PROPOSE A RIGID SYSTEM, BUT RATHER SOME SORT OF GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT OR THE POSSIBILITY OF REVIEWING MEMBERSHIP AT A LATER DATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 207554

5. IN SUPPORT OF BELGIUM'S CANDIDACY DE LA BARRE CITED LOYALTY TO THE ALLIANCE; AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UN FIRST COMMISSION WHERE BELGIUM HAS DEFENDED ALLIANCE INTERESTS; AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MBFR. HE NOTED THAT NON-MEMBERSHIP IN THE CD WOULD PUT BELGIUM IN THE ANOMALOUS POSITION OF BEING THE ONLY DIRECT PARTICIPANT IN THE MBFR NOT REPRESENTED.

6. DE LA BARRE THEN DISCUSSED BELGIUM'S CANDIDACY WITH RELATION TO OTHER CONTENDERS, STRESSING THE DELICACY OF HIS REMARKS AND ASKING THAT THEY BE PROTECTED. HE SAID THAT SOME FELT THAT NORWAY OR DENMARK, IF ELECTED, MIGHT REACT ALONG THE LINES OF THEIR NORDIC INTERESTS, IN THE WAKE OF SWEDEN, RATHER THAN IN NATO INTERESTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF FINLAND WAS ELECTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE USSR, NORDIC INTERESTS WOULD BE PROPERLY REPRESENTED. HAVING TURKEY IN THE CD RISKED INJECTING INTO THAT FORUM ITS GRIEVANCES WITH GREECE. FINALLY, WERE CUBA SELECTED, EITHER AS A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY OR AS A NON-ALIGNED, IT WOULD IN FACT CONSTITUTE AN ADDITIONAL SEAT FOR THE EASTERN BLOC WHICH WAS ALREADY OVER-

REPRESENTED. THE ELECTION OF BELIGUM WOULD SERVE AS
A COUNTER-WEIGHT.

7. IN CONCLUSION, DE LA BARRE ASKED FOR US ACCEPTANCE
OF THE IDEA OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CAPITALS, IN NATO
AND IN GENEVA, SO AS TO BUILD TO BEST POSSIBLE CASE
FOR THE WESTERN GROUP, AND FOR US SUPPORT OF

BELGIUM'S CANDIDACY.

8. VEST REPLIED THAT WE TOOK BELGIUM'S INTEREST
SERIOUSLY, APPRECIATED ITS EXTENSIVE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ALLIANCE AND IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, AND
RESPECTED THE CREDENTIALS IT COULD BRING TO THE NEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 207554

CD. DETERMINING THE COMPOSITION OF THE CD WAS BOTH
COMPLEX AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. WE AGREED AND WOULD
PRESS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL NATO MEMBER
AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A MODEST INCREASE OF
EIGHT IN TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID WE WERE NOT IN A
POSITION TO REPLY TO THE BELGIANS' REQUEST AT THIS
TIME BUT ASSURED DE LA BARRE THAT WE FAVORED FULL
CONSULTATION AND WOULD STAY IN TOUCH. VEST OFFERED
THE CAUTIONARY COMMENT, WITH REGARD TO ROTATING
MEMBERSHIP, THAT THE WHOLE APPROACH TO THE CD HAD
NEVER ENVISAGED ROTATION. HE NOTED, IN THIS REGARD,
THE FLEXIBILITY IN THE BELGIUM POSITION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE207554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REWOODS:CW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780335-0750
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwad.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00ef8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1720039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN CANDIDACY FOR CD MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: PARM, PORG, BE, CCD
To: BRUSSELS GENEVA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00ef8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014